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Question of Cyprus

Human rights questions

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 10 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter of 28 December 2000 (A/55/720-S/2000/1253), I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the European Parliament resolution on the abduction of Mr. Tsiakourmas in Cyprus, entitled "Human rights: Kidnapping of Mr. Tsiakourmas in Cyprus", adopted on 5 April 2001 (see annex).

The resolution condemns the abduction and subsequent arrest of Mr. Tsiakourmas, with the apparent support of the Turkish occupation forces, and urges the Government of Turkey to make all efforts so that its subordinate local administration in the occupied part of Cyprus release Mr. Tsiakourmas immediately, without any preconditions.

As you are aware, Mr. Tsiakourmas' illegal arrest took place within the British Sovereign Base Area on 13 December 2000, following written threats from the occupied areas to kidnap Greek Cypriots.

Upon instructions from my Government, I appeal once again to Your Excellency to use your influence and authority upon Turkey for the immediate release of Mr. Tsiakourmas. I also kindly request that you inform all relevant human rights mechanisms about this flagrant violation of international law.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 64 and 114, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sotirios **Zackheos**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-32962 (E) 110401

Annex to the letter dated 10 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Human rights: Kidnapping of Mr. Tsiakourmas in Cyprus

European Parliament resolution on the abduction of Mr. Tsiakourmas in Cyprus

The European Parliament,

– *Having regard* to its previous resolutions on the situation in Cyprus, its resolution on Cyprus' application for membership of the European Union of 12 July 1995 and its resolutions on Turkey,

– *Having regard* to the declaration of the European Union-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee of 5 June 2000,

– *Having regard* to the United Nations resolutions on Cyprus,

A. *Recalling* that Mr. Panicos Tsiakourmas was abducted on 13 December 2000 from the territory of the sovereign British base of Dhekelia near Pyla in Cyprus and forcibly taken to the Turkish-occupied area, where he was handed over and arrested by the police and has remained in detention ever since,

B. *Whereas* the authorities of the sovereign British base have publicly affirmed that Mr. Tsiakourmas was violently and arbitrarily abducted from sovereign British territory,

C. *Whereas* there is every indication that drugs were planted on the person of Mr. Tsiakourmas after his abduction,

D. *Whereas*, although the allegations of possession of drugs against Mr. Tsiakourmas have not been proved, proceedings have commenced in the illegal courts in the area occupied by the Turkish army on trumped-up charges,

E. *Whereas* Mr. Tsiakourmas has chronic health problems and his health continues to deteriorate, according to United Nations and other doctors who have been examining him,

1. *Condemns* the abduction and subsequent arrest of Mr. Tsiakourmas by the Turkish Cypriots, with the apparent support of the Turkish occupation forces, which constitutes a flagrant violation of international law;

2. *Urges* the Government of Turkey to make all efforts to ensure that this case is brought to a positive conclusion; demands that the local administration in the occupied area of Cyprus release Mr. Tsiakourmas immediately, without any preconditions; urges that he be given adequate medical attention while still in detention;

3. *Calls upon* all parties concerned to continue to seek a peaceful solution to the Cyprus problem, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions and the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

4. *Instructs* its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments of the member States, the Governments and Parliaments of Cyprus and Turkey and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.